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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,053	07/15/2003	Hajime Kimura	12732-030002	6879

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EXAMINER

HOLTON, STEVEN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/619,053	KIMURA, HAJIME	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven E. Holton	2673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 28, 32, 36 and 38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-27, 29-31, 33-35 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

3. Figures 2B and 13-17 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 25-28 and 33-38 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The abbreviation, EL, should be spelled out (at least in the independent claims) to avoid confusion in case of different meanings or changes in meaning of an abbreviation.

Claim 26, line 11 has the misspelling 'al' in place of 'a', and line 12 needs a space between 'pluralityof' on the second line.

Claims 27 and 28, line 11 has an extraneous period after the 'a'.

Claim 28, line 23 has the misspelling 'al' in place of 'a'.

Appropriate correction is required.

The Examiner objects to claims 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, and 35. Independent claims 26 and 27 are identical with the exception of minor misspellings and grammatical errors noted above. The limitations of these claims are identical and define the same invention. Similarly claim pairs 30 and 31, and 34 and 35 similarly define identical inventions depending from claims 26 and 27 respectively. The Examiner advises that one of the independent claims and corresponding dependent claims should be cancelled because only one claim defining the invention is needed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 25, 29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: an electroluminescent (EL) element.

The Examiner notes that the invention as disclosed is drawn to a pixel for an electroluminescent display. In order for the device to act as a pixel in a display there must be an element that is used to emit or otherwise modify light in response to control signals. In the case of independent claim 25, the defined device is merely a defined collection of transistors with specific interconnections but lacking an element to emit light. As such the device is not a pixel but merely a broadly defined circuit of which the disclosure and figures point out the inclusion of an electroluminescent element in all embodiments of the pixel. Thus, the invention defined by claims 25, 29, and 33 fails to include the EL element that is essential for the pixel to operate as part of a display device. The Examiner notes that by merely adding an EL element to claim 25 the claim would then become identical in scope to claims 26 and 27.

6. Claims 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements,

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such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: a storage capacitor.

The Examiner notes that a storage capacitor connected between a supply line and the gate electrode of the driver transistor is an essential part of the disclosed invention. No embodiment of the pixel device is disclosed such with the storage capacitor omitted from the circuit layout. Further, the storage capacitor is used to store charge that is essential for the driving operation of the pixel. Thus, independent claims 25, 26, and 27 are rejected as failing to include essential elements of the electronic device. The Examiner notes that by merely adding a storage capacitor with its connections to the claims of 26 and 27 would make the claims identical in scope to independent claim 28.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 28, 32, 36, and 38 are allowed.

The present invention is directed to the circuitry of a pixel with a reset or zeroing signal function for an electroluminescent display device. Independent claim 28 identifies the uniquely distinct features "one of a source region and a drain region of the reset transistor is electrically connected to one of the plurality of gate signal lines". The closest prior art, Dawson et al. (USPN: 6229506) and Stewart et al. (USPN: 5952789) disclose pixels with the reset/zeroing transistor connected between the power supply line rather than the gate signal line, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven E. Holton whose telephone number is (571) 272-7903. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Steven E. Holton
November 10, 2005
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Shankar', with a stylized, cursive script.

VIJAY SHANKAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER